FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi naval forces sank a "medium-sized maritime target" southeast of the Nowruz oil fields 18 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Other Iraqi military statements cited by INA later announced that 46 Iraqi planes attacked and destroyed Iranian military concentrations between Hamidiyeh and Ahvaz, while other Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 19 March.

For its part, Iran claimed that over 50 Iraqi troops were killed or injured during an Iranian patrol operation north of the "salt lake" on the al-Faw front the night of 18-19 March, according to a military statement reported by Tehran radio. In Tehran, the military information headquarters warned that Iran would "heavily pound" industrial targets in Iraq if attacks on non-military targets in Iran continued, IRNA reported.

Libya

Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio broadcast the political communique issued at the end of the second conference of the International Center for Combating Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reaction, and Fascism, which was held in Tripoli 15-18 March. In the communique the conference hailed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's stance in confronting U.S. "aggressive threats and provocative maneuvers" off the Libyan coast, and it stressed that the Gulf of Sidra "is part of the Libyan Arab territories and is thereby under absolute Libyan Arab sovereignty." The conference also called for the formation of a new international organization that would embody "the will of the vanquished, small, peace- and justice-loving nations" and act as an alternative to the United Nations.

Chad

The attack by Chadian Government forces on the command post of the "Islamic Legion" at Chicha 17 March resulted in the death of 235 members of the "Libyan annexationist army," including 19 Libyans, and the capture of 186 war prisoners, according to a Chadian military communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio.

French Train Blast Claimed

The "Committee of Solidarity With Arab and Middle-East Political Prisoners" claimed responsibility for a bomb which exploded on board a French TGV high-speed train outside Paris 17 March, injuring 10 people, AFP reported. The group sent a letter to AFP warning of further attacks unless 3 Lebanese and Armenian prisoners being held in French jails were released, the report added.

French Hostages in Lebanon

Unofficial French envoy Razzah Ra'd said he is "suspending" his efforts to free the French hostages held in Lebanon because of the French Government's failure to clear up some "false allegations" concerning his role, Paris radio reported. Ra'd added that someone pretending to be him had disseminated "disinformation" to a news agency in Beirut in order to eliminate his credibility with the "fundamentalists." Meanwhile, the French Embassy in Lebanon received information that Iran has instructed Hizballah party gunmen to "kidnap more Frenchmen," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

OPEC Affairs

An OPEC agreement on ways to bolster the current oil market is "further away than ever," Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Al Khalifah said at the OPEC conference meeting in Geneva, AFP reported. He also claimed that "if Norway and Britain will not cooperate, we will not make much progress" in increasing crude oil prices, AFP added. At a new conference the evening of 18 March, OPEC Conference President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti confirmed that the OPEC ministers have thus far made "no major decisions," OPECNA reported. Hernandez also announced that five OPEC ministers are to meet with representatives of the five non-OPEC oil-producing countries of Angola, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, and Oman 19 March. In Riyadh, an official Saudi spokesman said that the allegation by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i that Saudi Arabia is exporting three times as much oil as its OPEC quota is "absolutely untrue" and that in reality the Kingdom is exporting only one-half of its OPEC quota, Riyadh radio reported.

DRA-Pakistan

Four DRA planes bombed the Karshia border post in the Kurram area of Pakistan 18 March, killing 5 paramilitary troops and wounding 14 others, AFP reported citing sources in Peshawar.

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USSR Minister of Culture Demichev Visits Delhi

Cultural Agreement Signed

BK190519 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a cultured agreement for holding festivals of the two countries. Under the agreement signed in New Delhi, a festival of India will be held in the Soviet Union in June next year coinciding with the 40th anniversary of India's independence. A Soviet festival will be held in India in November coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Soviet revolution. The festivals will be held in all major cities of both the countries, lasting for 1 year.

The minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Soviet minister of culture, Mr P.N. Demichev, signed the agreement. The festivals will cover exchanges in books, science and technology, performing arts, film festivals, sports, and programs of youth, women, and children.

Gorbachev To Visit in 1986

HK190625 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 19 (AFP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is to visit India this year, Soviet Culture Minister P.N. Demichev has said, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported Wednesday.

It quoted Mr. Demichev as saying Tuesday that Mr. Gorbachev had accepted an invitation to make a visit this year.

Mr. Demichev, who led a Soviet delegation to the 13th congress of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) here, called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday.

PTI said that he informed Mr. Gandhi of the planned trip, but added that no dates had yet been finalised.

Official comment on Mr. Demichev's reported statement was not immediately available.

'Concern' Over Sri Lanka-Pakistan 'Military Nexus'

BK181605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] India is seriously concerned at the activities of foreign security and intelligence organizations in Sri Lanka and that country's growing military nexus with Pakistan. The External Affairs Ministry's annual report for 1985-86 says India has also expressed concern over reports suggesting that Sri Lanka is attempting a military solution to the ethnic crisis. The escalation of violence and large-scale killing of Tamil civilians has caused great concern in the country. Refugees from Sri Lanka now number more than 124,000, and they pose socioeconomic and other burdens for India.

Referring to Pakistan, the report points out that responsible ministers and leaders of that country have made unfortunate statements on Kashmir and minorities in this country. The assurances given by Pakistan in respect of its assistance to Sikh extremists have also not been fulfilled. The government of India, however, continued its efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan in the spirit of the Simla agreement. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, held four meetings during the year and there were also a number of other meetings at various levels. The meeting of India-Pakistan joint commission which was scheduled for this month has not yet been held because Pakistan did not agree to the dates proposed for the meeting and the first and the second subcommission which were to precede the joint commission meeting. [sentence as heard]

Referring to the military presence of the Indian Ocean, the report expresses the hope that littoral and hinterland countries will not align themselves with the great powers or offer them facilities of a military nature.

6 Pakistanis Killed in Encounters at Punjab Border

BK181353 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Six Pakistani nationals have been killed in encounters with Border Security Force personnel on the India-Pakistan border in Punjab in last 2 days. Four Pakistani nationals were killed today in two separate encounters; two of them were shot dead near (Godhar Dhariwal) in an exchange of fire, while two were killed near (Dharopal) in Amritsar sector.

50 Arrested in Pakistan for Anti-U.S. Demonstrations

BK180309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] In Karachi, students marched through the streets yesterday in protest against the visit of the U.S. war ships led by the world's largest aircraft carrier *Enterprise*. Riot police broke up the demonstrations and arrested about 50 students. The authorities had to restrict the movement of about 5,000 American Marines in view of the demonstration.

In a statement in Lahore the Central Committee of the Pakistan People's Party criticized the visit of the U.S. Navy. The statement said the visit undermines Pakistan's independent foreign policy and its nonaligned status.

Opposition Leaders Warn Against Terrorism Debate

BK181256 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Some of the opposition leaders have told the prime minister that this was not the appropriate time to have a discussion on terrorism in some parts of the country as announced by the Lok Sabha speaker. At their meeting with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, they pointed out that feelings on the issue are running high and charges and countercharges are being made. A full debate in this atmosphere will not be beneficial. They wanted the proposed debate should not be held on Friday [21 March] but some time

later. Jakhar had earlier announced that the Lok Sabha would discuss the subject on Friday.

The speaker's announcement had come when a Congress-I member, Mr K.K. Tiwari, and some of his party colleagues expressed their strong resentment and concern over the killings in Punjab. Mr Jakhar shared their feelings and condemned those incidents. He said there is a big conspiracy behind terrorism in the country. This is a matter of concern for the entire nation and not only for a state government.

Menaka Gandhi Attacks Muslim Maintenance Bill

HK131304 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 13 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's rebel sister-in-law, Menaka, has made a scathing attack on the government over the introduction of a bill in Parliament which seeks to relieve Moslem husbands from paying a maintenance allowance to their divorced wives.

The controversial bill says that instead divorced Moslem women should get maintenance from their families or Moslem welfare boards.

The bill has provoked strong protest from liberal Moslems and opposition political parties, but has been supported by Moslem fundamentalist groups.

Mrs Gandhi's attack, in the form of letters sent to ruling Congress (I) Party deputies and published by the *STATESMAN* newspaper Thursday, is her first public comment in several months on the working of the government led by her brother-in-law.

"It is appalling that the government has seen fit to promote a bill that will make (Moslem) women second class citizens," she said.

"Most countries, that call themselves democratic, have over the years, introduced progressive legislation in all the laws relating to the family...

"This is for the first time an ostensibly democratic system takes such a stern and retrograde step against an entire sex," she said.

"It is pity that few people in the ruling party have spoken up in the Parliament... I hope that this is not due to fear of expulsion ...," she said.

"Moslem women today cannot speak for themselves. So you must take it upon yourself as a representative of part of India, to defend their rights... I urge upon you to put your conscience higher than your ambition in this issue," the letter said.

No comment was immediately available from the deputies, who number 413 in the house of 544 members.

A liberal Moslem minister in Mr Gandhi's cabinet has resigned over the bill, but a majority of the Congress (I) deputies have preferred not to criticise it openly.

The bill was introduced after a Supreme Court verdict ordering a Moslem husband to pay a maintenance allowance to his divorced wife.

The judgement triggered protests from fundamentalist Moslems last month and in the ensuing violence at least seven people were killed across India.

Mrs Gandhi's husband, Sanjay, son of the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed in a stunt plane crash here in June 1980. Menaka Gandhi later rebelled and left the official residence of her mother-in-law.

She formed her own party, Rashtriya Sanjay Manch, and fought elections. Her party secured a few state assembly seats, but none on the national level.

Little has been heard from her since federal elections in December 1984.

MP Alleges Explosion at Atomic Research Center

HK150624 Hong Kong AFP in English 0556 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (AFP) — Seven scientists were seriously injured and many others exposed to radiation in an explosion at India's Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) near the western city of Bombay, an opposition MP has alleged.

Janata Party MP V. Venkatesh told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency in Bangalore, southern India, on Friday that the blast had occurred two weeks ago.

Dr. Venkatesh raised the issue in the lower house of Parliament earlier on Friday.

But the speaker (presiding officer), refused to allow the MP to ask about he alleged incident, saying it was not the way to raise the matter.

"The people of the country want to know what was the cause of the blast," Dr Venkatesh said.

He urged the government to take steps to prevent radiation leakage.

There was no comment from either the government or the authorities at the centre.

Further Reportage on Violence on Punjab

Batala Curfew Extended

BK170317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, the curfew in Batala town which was clamped last evening following incidents of arson, looting, and group clashes has been extended indefinitely. According to an official spokesman, the police resorted to firing when other measures to control and separate the unruly clashing mobs failed. The

spokesman said the incident claimed at least two lives and resulted in injuries to 13 others. More reinforcements of police and paramilitary forces have reached the town to assist the local administration in maintaining law and order. The state government has alerted local administrations in all the districts to keep a strict vigil over the situation and maintain law and order at all costs. They have been asked to take all possible preventive measures to ensure that no mischief monger takes the law into his own hands.

The Shiva Sena [Hindu organization] chief of Muktsar in Faridkot District, who was attacked by unidentified gunmen last Thursday, succumbed to his injures at the hospital.

Batala 'Fully Under Control'

BK170851 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, the situation in the curfew-bound town of Batala is fully under control. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that additional reinforcements have been deployed in the town to ensure that no mischief makers break the peace in the town. The curfew was imposed in the town yesterday evening following some incidents of arson, looting, and clashes between two groups.

'Neighboring Country' Providing Arms

BK181621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has reiterated that the elements trying to disturb peace and amity in the state will be dealt with firmly. He was replying to a special discussion on the law and order situation in the state legislative assembly in Chandigarh this afternoon. He said a committee of legislators from all political parties, which will visit various sensitive parts of the state for promotion of peace and amity, is being set up within the week.

Mr Barnala said the police have recently arrested about a 100 hard-core criminals responsible for various violent activities in the state. The chief minister alleged that a neighboring country is providing training and weapons to misguided youths from Punjab. He called upon the center to effectively seal the international borders to check infiltration.

Earlier, all the Congress-I legislators staged a walkout when the speaker did not allow the leader of the opposition, Mrs Gurbunder Kaur Brar, to intervene immediately when the chief minister alleged that some organizations were responsible for vitiating the atmosphere in the state.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound towns of Jullundur and Batala continues to be tense but under control. No untoward incident was reported.

3,000 More Troops Sent

HK190518 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 19 (AFP) — India's federal Government is rushing 3,000 paramilitary troops to Punjab state to contain violence there, the Indian *EXPRESS* newspaper said Wednesday.

The report came amid a spurt in Sikh militant-related killings and attacks in the strategic northern state, observers said.

The decision to send in the 3,000 federal forces was taken in response to a request from the Sikh moderate-led Punjab government and would boost the total federal paramilitary force in the state to 18,600, the paper said.

No official comment was immediately available on the report, from Punjab state's capital, Chandigarh.

At least 10 people have been killed in Sikh autonomy-related violence in Punjab this week, earlier reports reaching here said.

A senior police official escaped death in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar Tuesday when bullets fired at him by suspected Sikh separatists missed their target, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency said.

A section of India's 16 million Sikhs are waging a violent campaign for a separate homeland in the Punjab.

Assembly Discusses Situation

BK180350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a special sitting of the assembly has been convened this afternoon to discuss the law and order situation in the state.

Meanwhile, the situation in the two curfew bound towns of Jullundur and Batala continues to be tense, but under control. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this morning that the reinforced law enforcing machinery has been deployed in the two towns. The local authorities in other parts of the state are maintaining a strict vigil over the situation.

An attempt was made to set on fire two shops in Nakodar town of Jullundur district last night. However, the alert watchmen immediately swung into action and extinguished the fire.

Ziaul Haq Discusses UN 242, Gulf War, Opposition

GF131552 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 13 Mar 86 pp 3, 8

[Interview with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq by *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* chief editor Ahmad Salman Kamal in Islamabad — date not given]

[Text] Question: Your Excellency, how do you evaluate the situation in Pakistan and relations with the opposition parties now that martial law, which continued for more than 8 years, has been lifted?

Ziaul Haq: I personally feel very satisfied over the situation in Pakistan because political activities have resumed in the country after a long time. I will tell you truthfully, although the government was military for 8½ years and although I was the head of this military government, we continued our sincere efforts to prepare the country for democratic changes, then we began to practice the democratic experiment.

For the first time in 18 years, local elections are being held in the country, which resulted in the establishment of provincial assemblies, regional committees, and legislative councils for the provinces. The first elections were held in this framework in 1979, to be followed by the second elections in 1983. It should be acknowledged here that this accomplishment was achieved under a military government — something not achieved during the former regime, which used to advocate democracy and completely failed to prepare the Pakistani people and the country for the democratic process.

The success of our democratic experiment, which we consolidated after assuming power, is manifested in the fact that the Pakistani people now have their representatives, who are elected from all local institutions in the Senate and the National Assembly. The Senate and the National Assembly make up the parliament, which we call the Consultative Assembly. Our experiment is also rich because the elections conducted — whether provincial or central — were not held on a party basis built on fanaticism and grouping. Rather, they were held with the massive participation of the people so that they would have representatives who would talk on their behalf in all government institutions throughout the country. My personal conviction is that the elections experiment we practiced is in line with the spirit of Islam, particularly since we did not allow it to take place on party basis.

We proceeded in this way because we felt sure that parties would need a long time to repair the shortcomings in their organs and ranks. The best proof for the success of the experiment of the general elections held in 23 March 1985 is that the political government is running the country while the military government is in the background. This made me fully satisfied and glad and has convinced me that we are moving in right direction. Another example is that the government has become democratic and has practiced its authority in a free and democratic manner and makes its decisions in accordance with national interests. We have been able to accomplish that to which we aspired. Only a little is left to do. Time will achieve this.

There is a question concerning the opposition's rights. We clearly say that we do not oppose the official sense of the word, because, according to the democratic political experiment the Pakistani people chose, the opposition should work from inside the parliament. The majority party now is the Muslim League, the ruling party. As for the opposition working from outside the parliament, it is neither official nor legal and the Pakistani people do not recognize it. It should be noted that some parties, particularly following the lifting of martial law, have come to believe that they have to play a role outside the government. There is a 30- or 35-member group inside the National Assembly, called the Independent Parliamentary Group, which has not formed a party. This is the only opposition we recognize. I believe that this is the legal opposition.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to closely view the activities of the National Assembly to judge the democratic experiment and practice. As for the opposition working outside of the country, the people do not know anything about it and they do not pay any attention to it. Because of its ignorance of what is going on in the country, it believes that something wrong is going on. The opposition also believes that military rule is still in force and Ziaul Haq alone is directing things. There are some people who are influenced by the Indian experiment, although the circumstances in our country differ from those of India. These people want to transfer the Indian experiment to our country without understanding the dimensions of their thinking.

Let us go back to parties and their strength. It is clear that parties are weak in their structure because this structure did not have a democratic base. Therefore they are not democratic parties. They also lack clear programs. That is why our call was clear for elections to be conducted on a nonparty basis. Once the people's elected representatives assume their duties in the Consultative Assembly, they become empowered to make all decisions. From this premises, I say to our political parties: If you are keen for the democratic experiment, you should participate in elections. However, if you fail to meet this invitation, you will necessarily find yourselves outside of political action and the democratic experiment the people chose.

As for elections for the National Assembly, participation in it was 63 percent — a rate exceeding that in the United States and the British elections which brought Margaret Thatcher to power. While participation in the National Assembly elections was 63 percent, participation in provincial elections was 67 percent. Despite these brilliant successes, the opposition parties which opted not to participate have been crying from abroad for the past 5 years. They claim that these elections are illegal and held on a nonparty basis. However, once again we say that they alone are to blame because they did not participate in these elections. We also say that if these parties are eager to develop the democratic process, they should be aware of what is going on inside — something they cannot do if they remain outside and if they do not participate in elections. Therefore, members of these parties should reorganize their parties and prepare themselves for the 1990 elections.

Question: Do you expect the parties to take part in the upcoming elections?

Ziaul Haq: We expect all of the major parties to take part. According to the Constitution and the laws of the country, they function within the framework of this process. The new experience forces the parties to abide by the law pertaining to the registration of parties in order to explain their policies and confirm their democracy — after undertaking internal elections and organizing their ranks democratically. Once the parties register themselves, they will be allowed to practice their political activity and consequently to take part in elections.

Question: How do you classify the various political parties in Pakistan from an ideological point of view? How many will be classified?

Ziaul Haq: Except for a few, all of the parties are either rightists or central rightists. They are loyal to Pakistan and have Islamic affiliation. There is only one party which calls for secularism — the Pakistani People's Party. This party calls for an Islamic government, but does not adhere to Islamic law. The party adopts a socialist platform. The claims made by this party are mere slogans. At any rate, they demand the implementation of secularism. There are other parties which tend to be leftist, such as the banned Pakistani Communist Party and other small parties. These parties are opposed to the adoption of Islam as a means of rule. They call for secularism, as well. I believe that the next parliament will be able to enact the necessary legislation to curb this huge number of parties by canceling the small and ineffective parties.

Question: From time to time the Western press reports on how unstable the situations are in some Pakistani regions, such as Baluchistan. What is Your Excellency's reaction to these news reports?

Ziaul Haq: Such reports are false. The Baluchistan issue surfaced 10 or 12 years ago when the previous regime used military force to suppress their upheaval. Since we assumed power, we have not used military force against them. With the help of our brothers in Islamic countries, we have succeeded in developing this region and ameliorating their living conditions. This blocked the way of communist and socialist movements in Baluchistan, which is currently enjoying complete quiet. It is well known that the area of Baluchistan is half the area of the country — despite a population of 5 million or slightly more. This area is currently one of the most stable regions. Its people are among the most sincere and dedicated and they reinforce our military forces with the best of elements.

Question: The recent escalation in the Gulf war may lead to the danger of expanding the range of the war and subjecting the region to extreme dangers. Owing to Pakistan's good relationship with the two warring sides, is there any intention to launch a Pakistani initiative to end the fighting?

Ziaul Haq: Pakistan has continuously made endeavors in this direction through my own personal initiative and through the membership in the Islamic committee, which stems from the Islamic Conference. We have done our utmost to convince Iran to turn to peaceful solutions, yet it has adopted an intransigent position and has demonstrated a desire to continue the war. This position is different from the position of Iraq, which has demonstrated flexibility and a readiness to reach a peaceful solution. I believe that the revolutionary zeal of Iran has not subsided to the point of changing its position. Though I do not want to interfere in Iran's internal affairs, it is evident that the internal divisions and the lack of a single side capable of making a decision constitues an obstacle to turning to peace. At present in Iran there are many sides that make decisions. Over the past 2 weeks, Pakistan has tried to launch new initiatives, but has found no positive response to its efforts. All of us know that the situation has become very dangerous following the continuous escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran. I stress that the danger lies in the fact that if Iran succeeds in what it is trying to accomplish, the area will witness an unprecedented state of instability. The process of destabilizing Iraq would destabilize the situation in the region. I believe that neither of the two sides will be victorious in this war and that both sides will suffer complete devastation. It is certain that this will be reflected in the Gulf region and the Islamic world. We hope that the two warring sides will hammer out an agreement to solve the existing issue. From this premise, I believe that I have no other initiative to launch. I hope that Iran will be more flexible and objective.

Question: Do you believe that in the absence of Khomeyni the younger generations of the Iranian leadership will stop the war?

Ziaul Haq: I do not believe that the matter will be much different whether Khomeyni exists or is absent. In the absence of Khomeyni, every center of power will adopt its private initiative.

Question: Is the continuation of the war, up to now, an ideological issue or a fait accompli?

Ziaul Haq: This matter pertains to the Iranian psychology. Iran's current psychology is the psychology of continuing the revolution process. At unusual times men behave in an unusual manner. That is why the country is experiencing an unusual situation. Within the context of what I say, Iran considers this war a jihad. I actually asked them about it. They answered that it is a jihad. I asked them how they can call a war against an Islamic country a jihad. It is an abnormal mental condition. The issue of Iraq and the issue of President Saddam Husayn is my main preoccupation. They are now concentrating on the issue of toppling Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They are determined to do this even if it snowballs into the loss of Iran — while preserving the revolution. They are very extremist on this issue.

Question: Why does the ICO, which was established to run the affairs of the Islamic world, not convene an extraordinary summit to discuss the Gulf war — since this war constitutes the most serious problem facing the Islamic world — to adopt a resolution to terminate the fighting, impose sanctions on the side that does not adhere to the resolution, and then form an arbitration body to solve the various aspects of dispute between the two countries?

Ziaul Haq: I believe that any initiative launched in this regard is good. There is nothing worse than what is taking place now. If the initiative succeeds, it will give new momentum. If it fails, the situation will be no worse than it is now. It is most important that any initiative be accepted by the two sides. At the Casablanca summit conference, for instance, we talked much about the war.

We adopted a number of resolutions but achieved nothing. During the convocation of the Al-Ta'if summit attended by President Saddam Husayn, he expressed readiness to accept any resolutions adopted by the conference. However, Iran did not attend the summit. We tried to persuade Iran to attend a conference held in Dhaka last year. For the first time Iran accepted and attended this Islamic conference, but it did not show any flexibility. Iran stated that this is not a war dominated by fanaticism. It is a war in which victory has to be attained.

Question: Why does the ICO not adopt sanctions against the side that does not terminate the war?

Ziaul Haq: Iran has stated that it is ready to be flexible if we attain four conditions. First, the ICO has to identify the side which started the war. If it transpires that it is Iraq, sanctions are to be imposed on Iraq to pay all reparations on losses. The last time we asked Iran for its estimates of the losses sustained in the war, they quoted the amount $250 billion.

Question: We have learned that some Arab countries have expressed a readiness to contribute to the reparations to be paid to Iran. Do you believe that Iran will accept reparations paid by Arab countries?

Ziaul Haq: In the beginning Iran said that Iraq has to shoulder the responsibility of paying the reparations without the participation of the Arab world. It also said that it is not as much interested in the payment of reparations as in denouncing the aggressor provided that settlement on reparations is reached after the denunciation and provided that the name of the man who ordered the launching of the hostile aggression is announced. The demand also included deposing President Saddam Husayn from power. The Iraqi people would then decide who their president will be. I believe that this has nothing to do with flexibility.

Question: To resist any great power, the rifle is the logic of the age. Do you believe that the East and the West will allow any geographical changes which might occur due to the Iraq-Iran war, or is it a limited war through which Iran is trying to occupy parts of Iraq with the approval of the superpowers?

Ziaul Haq: According to my own information, Iran states that it does not seek to occupy Basra In the beginning, they used to say: We must liberate our territories. Now they say: We are invading Iraq, not to occupy it, but to topple Saddam Husayn and when we achieve this goal we will withdraw immediately. I asked them to explain this stand, because it is the Iraqi people who should decide their own system. The Iranians' answer is to continue fighting until the end. It seems that according to this concept it is difficult to convince those who adhere to their principles to take into consideration the huge population of Iran, 45 million, against 14 million Iraqis, in addition to the vast financial capabilities and great number of weapons left by the shah's regime. According to my own estimation and analysis of the situation, the capabilities of both parts have diminished greatly due to this war. In addition, the superpowers will not allow any changes in the region. However they are not directly involved with either of the two parties, despite the fact that some of the weapons and spare parts are provided by the superpowers directly or through third countries.

Question: A number of Arab countries blame the non-Arab Islamic countries for not actively participating in confronting the danger of Zionism and the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and its threats to destroy its holy shrines. This issue must concern the entire Islamic world and not just the Arab world.

Ziaul Haq: Since its independence, led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan has supported the Palestinian issue. It also considers that the Palestinian cause is not only the concern of the Palestinians but a cause which the entire Islamic world should adopt. Never in the history of humanity has there been such a tragic issue as the Palestinian issue. However the Palestinians lack unity despite our expressions of support for Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO is the only recognizable organization among all of the other factions. The Islamic world must support it in a bid to solve the Palestinian cause according to the UN resolutions.

In this regard I have my own opinion that during this stage and after all of these developments, it is unrealistic to deny the existence of Israel. I say that UN Resolution 242 must be accepted along with the recognition of the Palestinian rights for self-determination and the establishment of a state for them. The Palestinians should agree to the plan offered by Saudi King Fahd and Jordanian King Husayn. The Jordanians and the Palestinians should come together. They should find a piece of land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which should be the homeland of the Palestinians. Together they should live in peace. Otherwise this problem cannot be solved. It is impossible for this war to continue forever, because Israel will be supplied by the United States whether we like it or not. Therefore Israel is supplied by a superpower and as long as there is no unity between the Palestinians and the Muslims, Israel will remain victorious. I am looking forward to the day when I will be able to go to Jerusalem and pray on Friday. It is not enough to sit down and dream. We must take positive steps to find a foothold for the Palestinians. They must enjoy Jordanian support. In the meantime they should recognize Israel and think of their future policy.

Question: Your Excellency, you have mentioned that the Palestinians should recognize UN Resolution 242. In fact this resolution is useless to the Palestinians as it does not recognize their homeland.

Ziaul Haq: It is important to link Resolution 242 with the project of King Fahd formulated in 1983, which includes eight points, and also the formula accepted by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. However UN Resolution 242 does mean nothing concerning a sovereign state. However, together with the project of King Fahd, Israel must therefore recognize the PLO and must conduct dialogue with it as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. This is the basis for the solution in the future.

Question: Are you generally satisfied that current cooperation among the Islamic countries is genuine? Is it cooperation?

Ziaul Haq: There was no genuine cooperation before. However, things are now better than before. The ICO is a kind of cooperation between Islamic countries, although it has not achieved

much, its existence is better recognized than before. Today the ICO is recognized by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and every international organization. There is also the Arab League, which includes all of the Arab Muslim countries. Apart from that, there are two regional organizations of great potential and importance. The first includes Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. The second is the Southeast Asian Organization, which includes seven Islamic countries. Through these regional organizations, the world can hear the voice of Islam. Moreover the GCC conducts comprehensive strategic planning to polarize all of the Islamic countries in the region. We hope that the activities and the cooperation of these organizations will serve the Islamic causes.

Question: It has been announced in New Delhi that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has canceled his proposed visit to Pakistan because of its support for the Sikh extremists. Does this mean there is a crisis between India and Pakistan? If so, what are the dimensions of the crisis?

Ziaul Haq: The cancellation of the visit has not been announced officially. Over the past 5 years Pakistan has tried to achieve peace with India. We have done much in this regard. I have met Rajiv Gandhi six times, most recently on 17 December 1985, and there was tangible progress. However, there is no official statement on the cancellation of the visit. We feel that Pakistan will resume efforts to normalize relations with India. I have met Rajiv so many times. I also met him in Muscat where our talks were most positive.

Question: Your Excellency, there is a lot of talk about the Islamic nuclear bomb Pakistan intends to produce. What are the facts about this issue?

Ziaul Haq: Pakistan has reached a high level of nuclear technology for peaceful uses. We have announced that our research in the nuclear field is to use its energy and to develop the technology for peaceful means. We have announced that we have managed to enrich uranium, a very advanced technological operation. There are only five countries which have so far accomplished it. Pakistan is only striving to have its own reactor so as not to depend on others. It is ironic that the Soviet bomb is not called the communist bomb, and the U.S. bomb is not called the Christian bomb. India has nuclear reactors but no one calls it the Hindu bomb, or Israel's the Jewish bomb. Why must they call Pakistan's bomb, supposing we have it, an Islamic bomb? You can see the mentality. They are fearful that if an Islamic country such as Pakistan acquires this technology they will spread it. In fact if the Islamic world possessed this technology, it means that 900 million Muslims possess advanced technology. Hence comes the aggressive campaign against Pakistan and the aggressive talk about the Pakistani nuclear bomb. It is our right to obtain the technology. And when we acquire this technology, the entire Islamic world will possess it with us.

Question: What is the view of Your Excellency concerning the possibility of reaching a settlement of the Afghan issue. Are there any contacts between Pakistan and the USSR or the Afghan Government in this regard?

Ziaul Haq: There is no chance that Pakistan could recognize the ruling regime in Kabul because the Soviet occupation is a source of worry to all of the countries in the region. The current number of the Soviet forces is about 150,000. The Soviet trend is to expand their influence to the Indian Ocean through Pakistan after circling Iran. This is the Soviet strategy. Now they have closed the doors in front of the PRC while they threaten Pakistan from the west and prepare to expand their influence to the Indian Ocean, the entrance to the Gulf and to the oil-rich countries.

Indian Envoy Hands Gandhi Message to Ziaul Haq

BK181535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Indian Ambassador to Pakistan S.K. Singh called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon and handed him a message from the Indian prime minister. It is in reply to the president's message to Gandhi on 1 March regarding the development of bilateral relations.

The president reiterated that Pakistan is determined to establish good-neighborly and cooperative relations with India on the basis of recognized principles of relations among states. He stated this in his reply to the Indian prime minister's message, sent to him while Gandhi was overflying Pakistani territory. The president also expressed good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Indian people.

The Indian prime minister said in his message that India is fully committed to the goal of promoting cordial bilateral relations under the Simla agreement.

Further on UN Envoy's Visit to Islamabad, Kabul

Talks With Yaqub Khan

BK131606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held two rounds of formal talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad today. It is understood that he apprised the foreign minister of his talks with the officials of the Karmal administration.

Mr Cordovez went to Kabul on Monday [10 March] after holding four rounds of talks in Islamabad.

Interviewed on Afghan Talks

BK140416 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The personal representative of the UN secretary general, Mr Cordovez, has said that his current visit to the region has further strengthened his feelings that it is essential to resolve the problem caused by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He said the situation arising out of the problem has caused an immense increase in human suffering. The UN representative said in an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKI-

STAN that no one realizes the serious proportions and new direction that this problem has assumed, making it difficult to solve. With the passage of time, this issue has become more difficult.

He said that the differences between the sides are not such that they cannot be resolved. He said if the Geneva talks are resumed on a mutually satisfactory basis, we will be able to negotiate the fourth instrument on a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The Kabul regime is demanding direct talks with Pakistan on the fourth instrument. This instrument relates to serializing it with the other three instruments, which have been concluded at six rounds of indirect talks under the supervision of the United Nations. [Sentence as heard] Pakistan is opposed to any change in the format of the Geneva talks.

Mr Cordovez held talks with Pakistan's foreign minister yesterday on his return to Islamabad from Kabul. He is likely to return to Kabul tonight or tomorrow morning and to be back to Islamabad Sunday [16 March] to resume talks with Pakistani officials.

Mr Cordovez said that the pace of the current negotiations is slow in comparison to expectations. However, the Pakistani Government has demonstrated very good, commendable cooperation. He said Pakistan has adopted a poositive attitude toward a negotiated settlement of this issue.

Additional Talks With Yaqub Khan

BK171610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held another round of talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this afternoon.

Earlier, on his return to Islamabad from Kabul, he told newsmen that they are continuing the process of negotiations to find a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem, but they cannot publicize the (?position). He refused to comment on his talks with the Kabul administration's Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost.

Meets Ziaul Haq

BK180708 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, had a meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. Mr Cordovez discussed the Afghanistan problem with the president and informed him about the efforts (?taken by him for a settlement of this) problem. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, was also present on the occasion.

Leaves for New York

BK180856 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, expressed the hope that he will soon be successful in continuing the process of the Geneva talks and said that there is no doubt that representatives of both Pakistan and Kabul are ready to resume the talks. He was speaking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport before his departure to New York.

He said that, in the light of his talks in Kabul and Islamabad, representatives from both the countries will be able to overcome the problems confronted in the talks. He described his talks as elaborate, categorical, and very tough on several occasions; however, he described them overall as constructive.

He said that in the event of a positive response (?the dialogue) on preparing the fourth instrument will continue. Mr Cordovez added that he had obtained in Kabul a draft for the fourth instrument pertaining to the timetable for Soviet withdrawal. He said he has exchanged views with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on the text of this instrument.

Afghan Jets Reportedly Bomb Border Post, Kill 5

NC181735 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Islamabad, March 18 (AFP) — Afghan warplanes Tuesday bombed a Pakistani border post in the North-West Frontier Province, killing five paramilitary troopers and wounding another 14, informed sources said in Peshawar.

The sources in the border city said four Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistani airspace in the Kurram area, bordering Afghanistan's Paktia Province, and dropped several bombs on the Karshia border post manned by Pakistani militia.

Officials had no immediate comment.

Demonstration Held To Protest U.S. Fleet in Karachi

Montazari Addresses Crowd

LD182323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, this afternoon, a large group of religious students, ulema, and Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi clergymen residing in Qom seminary, side by side with the Hezbollahi and the ever-present people of Qom, staged a march from the Feyziyeh school to protest the presence of the U.S. fleet on Pakistan's shores. The march was held in harmony with the protest of the people of Pakistan against the arrival of the U.S. fleet in Pakistani waters. The marchers carried pictures of the imam of the nation, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and some banners condemning the presence of the U.S. fleet in Pakistan's waters, imperialist conspiracies, and interference in the affairs of the Middle Eastern countries.

By chanting such slogans as: "Death to the United States," "Death to Israel," and "Pakistan Is the Graveyard of the Americans," the marchers demonstrated their anger and revulsion at such deeds by world-devouring imperialism and its lackeys. Afterwards, the marchers gathered in Martyrs Square and listened to a speech by one of the Pakistani clergymen and approved a resolution.

Following the march, the participants met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In the course of this meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised the revolutionary move of the Muslim people of Pakistan and the participants at this march. He called upon them to remove the enemies of Islam and Muslims by receiving inspiration from the Islamic revolution of Iran led by the imam of the nation.

U.S. Flag Burned

LD190648 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Qom, March 19, IRNA — A group of Pakistani theologians studying at Qom Theological Center in a protest march here Tuesday condemned the arrival of the U.S. naval fleet in Karachi port and U.S. aggressive policies. The demonstrators marched through the streets of the holy city of Qom and burned the U.S. flag, demanded departure of the fleet. They later gathered at the resident of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Addressing the Pakistani theologians, the Ayatollah said that they bore a great responsibility towards the Pakistani nation and should fulfill their Islamic duties.

"It is a religious duty of the theologians," he told the visitors, "not to sit silent when the Muslims and the Islamic community face a problem. They should mobilise all their efforts to unmask the enemies of Islam."

He also deplored attitude of the so-called theologians who have put themselves at the disposal of the corrupt rulers of certain Islamic countries. By doing so these theologians are siding with traitors and tyrants and are justifying their injustice. However, he added, they should know that such justifications will have severe consequences for them.

Further in his speech, Ayatollah Montazeri said that the Islamic revolution of Iran has awakened Muslim nations and, therefore, the lackey governments should know that they are doomed.

Oil Minister Meets Counterparts at OPEC Session

With Nigeria, Indonesia

GF180826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] We draw your attention to a report on the meeting of the oil minister of our country with the Nigerian and Indonesian oil ministers during the course of the OPEC oil minister's session in Geneva.

[Begin recording] On Monday, the oil minister of our country met with Doctor Subroto, the Indonesian mining and energy minister. They exchanged views on the problems of the oil market and directions OPEC must take. While describing the conditions imposed on OPEC, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: If we do not reach a desirable result during this session, the crisis which will arise from economic problems will be uncontrollable. He added: My overall understanding is that it is possible to stabilize prices by controlling production. Moreover, over the next few months the control of production will enable us to increase prices.

Dr Subroto, the Indonesian mine and energy minister, emphasized that all OPEC members have a tendency toward increasing prices and noted the production level of non-OPEC oil-producing countries. He said: We have a lot of power as long as we know how to use it. No other power is able to maintain OPEC's shares in the market.

These discussions continued for an hour and the parties reached mutual points which would be very useful in bringing closer the views of the members.

On Monday the oil minister of our country also met and exchanged views with Mr Lukman, the new Nigerian oil minister. The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran began by describing the problems and conditions with which OPEC is faced and emphasized further discussions among the members. He called the decrease in oil prices a plot against OPEC and said: Today we are faced with the problem of how much we should produce to help prices. Members must try not to turn back official prices.

While enumerating the problems Nigeria faces due to the decline in oil prices, Mr Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister said: I agree with your views. The oil volume must be brought down so that oil prices do not decrease. During the course of these discussions, the parties understood each other's mutual problems and reached agreements in principle. It was agreed that they would emphasize these positions during the normal session of the conference. [end recording]

[Signed] Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran — Geneva

With Venezuela, Libya, Algeria

GF190559 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Geneva, during the course of a meeting between the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the oil minister of Venezuela, they held discussions and exchanged views on the current problems of the oil market and the problems with which the current OPEC session is faced. During these discussions, which lasted for an hour, methods to decrease OPEC production in such a way that would improve the current situation and again increase prices were discussed. They emphasized that under the present conditions prices are artificial and they believed that by adopting the correct methods and coordination, OPEC members would be able to bring about realistic prices.

Yesterday afternoon the triparte commission of the oil ministers of Iran, Libya, and Algeria once again conducted a session. Discussions were held and views were exchanged on adopting a joint method against the deviation trend among OPEC members. It must be mentioned that this wing believes in a decrease in production and an increase in prices — the logical campaign against the Western plots against OPEC. Recently Nigeria also expressed its support for this wing by announcing its position.

According to the same report the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran also met with Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah the oil minister of UAE. During the course of the meeting the need for coordination and commitment to shares as appointed by OPEC was emphasized.

Majlis Deputies Send Message to Khomeyni on War

LD132024 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Majlis (parliament) deputies sent a letter to Imam Khomeyni Thursday announcing their preparedness to attend the Iraq-imposed war fronts. The Majlis deputies also stressed that Iran's offensives against the enemy should continue until the Islamic Republic's just demands are fulfilled and security returned to the region.

International Conference on War Reconstruction Held

Architects Meet

LD151411 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Tehran's international conference on reconstruction of war-damaged areas continued its work Saturday after a three-day visit by its participants to several war-hit cities in Iran.

At the meeting, architects from France, Denmark, the United States, Italy, and Turkey propounded their views on reconstruction of the war-stricken areas.

Among plans brought up at the meeting were systematic methods of reconstruction, designing methods, reconstruction experience in Algeria, and related cultural issues.

Since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war in September (?1980) Iraqi forces have totally destroyed several Iranian cities including Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province.

Conference Ends

LD161358 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The international conference on the reconstruction of war damaged areas ended its ten day meeting in Tehran Sunday after calling for due attention to traditional structural forms in the rebuilding of the cities.

In their last meeting, the specialist committees on planning, management, methods of construction and infrastructure reported their findings to the conference.

The participants who include architects from 26 countries from Asia, Europe and the American Continent were invited to the Islamic Republic to study the reconstruction work. There are two U.N. officials among them.

The conference members spent three days in the war zone to get first hand knowledge of the problems facing the scheme.

Before breaking up Sunday the conference issued a statement calling on the government to pay due attention to the participation of the public in the reconstruction effort.

The statement also said that due attention should be paid to the traditional cultural forms in the rebuilding of the housing complexes and cities.

Earlier the architects had expressed concern over Iraqi air raids on historic sites in Iran and they made the concern official by putting it in the final declaration.

Khamene'i Meets Experts

LD162141 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that the larger part of the reconstruction operations of war-devastated areas has been undertaken by volunteers and that the people have already reconstructed many towns and cities such as the town of Huzgan in Khuzestan Province. He said the main support for the war effort, too, have been popular and volunteer forces.

In a meeting with foreign and domestic experts who had participated in the just concluded Tehran international conference on reconstruction of war-damaged areas, the president said that Iranian people themselves will provide the manpower and financial resources for reconstructing the war-stricken areas.

President Khamene'i said that once the Iraqi-imposed war ends in a victory for Iran, then reconstruction work will have the first priority among other tasks to be tackled, which he said would be recorded as another Iranian historic achievement. He said notwithstanding the imposition of the war on Iranian people, "we believe both defence and reconstruction will be the greatest experiences of our nation"...

The president noted that although the war was bitter and bloody however bombardment of cities, attacks on passenger planes and merchant as well as oil ships, and the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime were exceptional and far more horrifying events in the history of wars, the president said. [Sentence as received]

The head of the Supreme Defence Council furthermore said that Iraqi bombardments of schools at a time when students were studying and other despicable crimes committed by the Baghdad government in the course of the war should certainly have raised the world consciousness.

The president said such negligence and silence by international organizations vis-a-vis Iraqi crimes, have caused Iranian nation to lose its trust in them.

IRGC, SAIRI Invite Iraqi Mujahidin To Join Fajr Force

LD181835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The Central Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards corps [IRGC] and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] in a joint statement proclaimed:

In order to establish an Iraqi combatant presence in the liberated areas, a Fajr military force made up of Iraqi brother mujahidin, will be dispatched from Tehran University to the warfronts on Friday 1st Farvardin 1365 [21 March 1986], after holding the auspicious Friday prayers. Therefore, all Iraqi volunteer forces are hereby invited to present themselves in person to Iraqi mobilization offices throughout the country at the latest by Thursday 29th Esfand [20 March 1986].

Kurdish Peshergas Destroy Iraqi Personnel Carrier

LD181938 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas have blasted a mine in a road leading to Lavan military base in northern Sayyid Khan destroying a military personnel carrier and killing or wounding its crew.

According to reports reaching here, the peshmergas had earlier planted several mines in the same road killing at least five Iraqi soldiers.

The reports said five Ba'thist soldiers joined the Kurdish fighters in Al-Sulaymaniyah together with their weapons last week.

Iraq Reportedly Forces Foreign Workers Into War

LD181825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Following the recent victories scored by Islam's heroes during the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations and the immense losses suffered by the Saddamist forces, the Baghdad regime has forced workers residing in Iraq to participate in the fronts of the imposed war. According to a report by the publication *RAH-E KAR-BALA'* the Saddam regime's compulsory military service law has forced Yemeni, Sudanese, Egyptian, and other workers residing in that country to join the so-called Ba'thist People's Army. The publication wrote: War participation constitutes one of the residence conditions for non-Iraqi Arab workers residing in Iraq.

Senior Military Commanders Praise Armed Forces

LD131921 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Senior military commanders Thursday hailed Iran's Islamic forces for inflicting heavy blows on the Iraqi Army and called for resistance against the superpowers.

Air Force Commander Colonel Hushang Sediq praised the heroic pilots of the Air Force for the heavy blows they have inflicted on the enemy in Val-Fajr-8 offensive (in Al-Faw region of Iraq). He said the world could hardly believe that the Islamic Republic Air Force was capable of bombarding enemy positions so heavily in Val-Fajr-8 operational region.

Speaking in a seminar on self-sufficiency in Air Force, Sediq said Iran today was relying on (?itself) and that it should achieve advanced technology inside the country.

In another development, commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rezai'e said Thursday that the Islamic Republic plays a significant role in the world and therefore it should counter the superpowers and help the world's oppressed.

Speaking in the third day of a nationwide seminar attended by IRGC's reserve units commanders, Rezai'e also said that the Iran nation must take the leadership of the Islamic world and not [word indistinct] before the superpowers.

Meanwhile vice chancellors for military affairs of Iran's universities met here Thursday and discussed issues on research activities as well as dispatch of expert forces to the Iraqi imposed war fronts.

In the gathering, deputy minister of culture and high education for war affairs said that the universities are allowed to train the necessary skills for the war. He added that they also can study courses relevant to war issues.

War Information HQ Threatens Iraqi Industrial Targets

LD181638 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in communique here Tuesday that the Iranian forces would heavily pound industrial targets in Iraq if the Baghdad regime should continue its attacks upon non-military targets in Iran.

The communique said that the Iraqi regime has repeatedly bombarded Arab populated villages near the city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province of Iran describing its ruining of the houses of harmless civilians in Iran as "heroic operations."

The Baghdad regime has recently escalated its bombardments of non-military targets in Iran in an effort to make good on its steady set-backs in the battlefronts.

Denies Bombing Non-Military Areas

LD190618 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Wednesday categorically denied claim of the Iraqi regime alleging Iran of having bombed non-military areas in Missan Province.

Speaking to IRNA, he said that the Iranian operations on Tuesday were carefully carried out against a large economic center of the Iraqi regime in northwest of Qal'at Salih, causing heavy damages.

He described the Iraqi claim as being "totally false."

The Iranian Air Force pilots, after successfully carrying out their Tuesday mission, downed two Iraqi helicopters on the way back to their bases.

50 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded

LD191053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during patrol-combat operations north of the salt lake in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector last night, the courageous warriors of Islam, supported by intense artillery fire, succeeded in annihilating or wounding more than 50 enemy troops.

During these operations, a large amount of enemy equipment, including several tanks and personnel carriers, were destroyed and the defeated Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses.

Today, the fast-flying pilots of the Airborne Division launched several operations in the "Val-Fajr-8" sector. During these sorties, a large number of enemy arms and equipment and military vehicles were destroyed.

Tehran Arabic Views Murphy Tour, U.S. Policy

GF140438 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 86

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, concluded his tour of a number of countries in the region after he changed his itinerary and postponed his visit to Jordan. He returned to Washington after meeting with Zionist officials.

Murphy's tour, which included Cairo and occupied Jerusalem, in the opinion of some observers, was of special importance because it has been reported that the United States will propose a new program for the so-called peace process in the Middle East. This is in view of the new developments in the region, most prominent of which is the failure of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination last month after King Husayn abolished the Amman accord between him and 'Arafat's faction. King Husayn considered this accord null. During the past 2 days, it was reported in Cairo that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Cairo shortly to discuss with Mubarak the new U.S. move in the region.

Although Murphy did not talk publicly about the new U.S. moves, observers have noticed some signs of this. An example is his remarks while meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday; he said that the peace process is now passing through a critical stage of mediation and thinking. Observers who consider this statement as a sign for a new U.S. move in the region believe that what Zionist Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at Haifa University yesterday — only a few hours after his meeting with Richard Murphy — reveals the nature of the new U.S. move, which is in a great harmony with Zionist wishes.

At any rate, King Husayn's current stand makes him inclined to respond to the joint U.S.-Zionist-Egyptian desire, particularly since his commitments to 'Arafat's wing are completely canceled. Apart from this, recently he began to reiterate words that indicate his political stand independent of the Palestinians and their future in the occupied territories. The possible developments on this level, which indicate a wide-ranging conspiracy to strike at the Palestinian issue through the idea of a temporary settlement, as projected by Rabin yesterday, call on those who are concerned with the Palestinian issue and the conflict with the Zionists to prepare themselves to directly confront the U.S. plan — a plot against the future of this region and the oppressed Palestinian people. Perhaps the correct confrontation with these U.S. plots should pass through Palestinian circles and then through Amman and Cairo, where regimes in these capitals are preparing the atmosphere to implement what the White House wants, in coordination with the Zionists: Plotting against the future of the Palestinian issue.

Tehran-Damascus Relations Reportedly 'Severely Shaky'

GF131953 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] While world attention is focused on the issue of the French hostages in Beirut and the fact that the Khomeyni regime is

involved in the affair, we have received reliable reports indicating that relations between Tehran and Damascus have become severely shaky.

It is being said in the circles close to the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry that the existing differences between the two regimes in Tehran and Damascus increase day by day. Syria, which opened the road for the mullahs into the political atmosphere of Lebanon, does not tolerate the disobedience of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] stationed in the Biqa' Valley or the independent terrorist actions of the Hizballah, or Islamic Jihad.

During the past few weeks the comings and goings of Khomeyni's elements to Beirut through Syria have been very limited. In addition to this, last week Damascus refused entry to Mohtashami-Pur, Khomeyni's former ambassador to Damascus who wanted to travel to Syria to deliver a personal message from Khamene'i to Hafiz al-Asad.